

A

# REVIEW

## OF THE

### Affairs of *FRANCE*:

Purg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *News-Writers*  
and *Petty-Statefmen*, of all Sides.

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Tuesday, May 30. 1704.

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**I**N pursuing this Article of the *French* Greatness, our next Head relates to their Defensive Strength, and this, as I take it, includes the Fortifications on their Frontiers, their vast and incredible Magazines, and the strength of their Coasts.

I think I may touch at these without the Reader expecting the Geographical Description of the Country.

Nor is it needful I should Delineate the Fortifications of every Town, and tell you how many Bastions, Gates, Guns, &c. Every Fortification contains; the Octogons, Pentagons, Hexagons, that have Lines, Curtains, Tenails, Redouts, Horn Works, and all Monsieur *Vaubon*'s hard Names, are no part of the Design.

Our Engineers will be better able to do that, when they come to take them, which I could with they would begin, because I foresee 'twill be a tedious piece of Work for them.

For this Reason, I cannot but extremely approve of the Measures concerted abroad, as to the Operation of the Present Campaign; and tho' I design no Panegyricks, the Duke of *Mariborough*, if the Design was his, has shown himself as great a General, as the *English* could desire to see at the head of their Armies.

I could never see the Jest, or indeed the Earnest, of keeping such vast Armies of Men in *Flanders*, to play at Bo-peep, and dodge one another a whole Campaign, and hardly come to any Action while which side soever please, but to venture Acting on the Defensive, may spare 40000 Men for another Design.

This the indeed *French* Taught us, for we learn too much from them, I say too much, because we can learn nothing from them, but what we feel the Effects of first, and so learn it by our own dear-bought Experience. They taught us last Year, that with about 30000 Men, and the help of their Lines, on the Defensive, they cou'd keep the Confederates with above 80000 from Attempting any Fatal Enterprize, and they found that they could better part with 2 or 3 Towns in *Flanders*, which they might easily Recover at the beginning or end of a Campaign, than they could be without the Service 30 or 40000 Men would do them in another Place.

By this means they kept the whole Confederate Army knocking their Heads against the Stone Walls of *Liege* and *Limburg*, and spending a Month for want of Baggage-horses to bring up the Artillery, while the *Mareschal Tallard* carried all before him on the

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Rbline,

*Khine*, Ravag'd the Lower *Alsace*; took Fort *Khiel*, *Brisac* and *Landau*, and not a Body of an Army at hand; no, not enough to keep the *French* Parties from raising Contributions.

At this price the Confederates bought the Experience, on which they found the Measures of the Present Campaign.

If I should set down a List of the Losses which the Imperialists had in all Probability prevented, had these Measures been Originally their own; it would swell to a large Account.

'Tis easy to lose, and hard to regain Towns and Countries on a Mistake in War, and the Duke of *Marborough* must have more Success, than in modestly any Man can pretend to wish for him; if he should recover in two Summers, what the Error of the last Years Measures lost in one.

*Flanders*, which till now, was the Barrier of *England* and *Holland*, is the Prodigy of the World for strong Towns, whether we consider how thick they stand, how strong they are, or in what a Country Situated: 'Tis a whole Country dress'd up in Armour; there is not a Town of any Consequence in it, but in Regularity Fortified, and some in such an invincible manner, that 'tis hard to describe. *Bruges*, *Brussels*, *Ghent*, and *Lovain*, are reckoned among the Weak Places; and they are only so from their vast extent, Wealth and number of Inhabitants; and I think I may be allow'd to say, That besides these, there is not a Town of any Note, but what is able to hold out a formal Siege, and cannot be taken without it.

There is no need of ransacking History for the old Famous Sieges of *Ostend*, *Mons*, *Breda*, &c. The first of which was Besieg'd by the *Spaniards*, with an Army of 60000 Men; and whereas the Arch-Dutchess, *Isabella of Austria*, swore she would not shift her Smock, till she had taken the Town: She either obtain'd a Dispensation for her Oath, or made shift with foul Linnen, for the Town held out 3 Years, 3 Months, 3 Weeks, and 3 Days, and then was only Surrendered; because the *Dutch* found the Charge of maintaining it, more than the Town was worth; in this Siege the *Spaniards* lost 66873 Men; and the Defendants above 25000.

But where Memory will supply, History is wholly useless; the Modern Sieges of *Mons*, *Charleroy*, *Aeth*, *Oudenard*, *Luxemburg*, and at last *Namure*, are sufficient Testimonies to this head.

As this Country was thus a Frontier to the *Dutch*, so that part of it, which the *French* from time to time have Mastered, and which they call *le ran Conquist*, was the Barrier to their own Country; and as this was equally Fortify'd, so the *French* have added so much to those Works that has hitherto rendered that Country Impenetrable by the Confederates.

These Towns beginning as but Exclusive of *Dunkirk*, of which we shall speak by itself, are *Ipres*, *Tournay*, *Courtray*, *Lisse*, *Combe*, *Valenciennes*, *Cambray*, *Maubege*, *Philipvill*, *Charlemont*, *Mezières*, and several others. These make a Line from the Sea to the *Meuse*, and up that Stream to the edge of *Lorraine*.

The *Spanish* Towns, which at the end of the last Peace, stood as a Frontier against these, and were they as well Defended, rather exceeded them in Strength, were *Newport*, *Oudenard*, *Aeth*, *Mons*, *Charleroy*, *Namure*, and *Luxemburg*.

Now the Scene of the War is chang'd, and all these Towns are *French*, with the Addition of *Ostend*, *Antwerp*, all the Forts on the *Scheld* and about *Sluice*, and *Dinant*.

The *Dutch* indeed in this last War, have in the space of three Campaigns, taken from them all the lower *Guelreland*, with *Leige*, *Huy*, *Limbourg* and *Bonne*; the Situation of the places, and superiority of the Confederate Forces making the *French* unable to Relieve them, but this brings us to the Case in hand; Their superiority of Forces has been occasion'd by the *French* policy, who found it their Interest to Act defensively in *Flanders*, and let the *Dutch* Army be superior, and take a few Towns, that at the same time they might be Superiour, in *Germany*; and while the *Dutch* busied themselves before small and inconsiderable Towns, comparatively speaking, they over-run the Empire; and for every Town the *Dutch* took here, they took a Province there.

Now



Now if the Confederates were always to be superiour in *Flanders* by above 30000 Men, and consequently Masters of the Field; I leave it to any Man who understands the Nature of the thing, whether in 20 Campaigns all the Towns in the Low Countries, and on the *French* Frontiers could be reduced by Sieges, not at all, considering how many brave Lives must be sacrific'd in Attacks, and let the same considering Person calculate what Ravages in *Germany*, *Italy*, and *Hungary*, the *French* should have the Liberty to make by the same Superiority of Forces on the *Rhine* and the *Danube*; and let 'em tell me, how

much of the Empire may be left in such a 20 Years Superiority.

The Nature of the thing therefore has now transpos'd the War from *Flanders* to the Upper Rhine: And as the *Dutch* have spar'd 40 Thousand Men, and the King of *Prussia* 20000 which us'd in the former Wars to serve in the Low Countries; these march for *Germany*, and the States have the Pleasure to see the War remov'd from their own Doors into the Heart of the Empire.

The next Barrier the *French* have, is on the *Moselle*, and the Side of *Lorraine*, which our next Paper shall describe.

## ADVICE from the Scandalous CLUB.

THE Society had lay'd by the Correction of News-papers for a time; as a Burthen too constant and intollerable, and was applying themselves to encounter more Capital Offenders; but the Importunity of such Gentlemen as are daily offended with the Blunders and Errors of these Sons of Incorrigible, calls them back again to this Work.

Also the Society had laid aside the Vindication of themselves, as a thing sufficiently answer'd and settl'd before;

But we have receiv'd Two Friendly Letters from an Ingenious Hand, who as he says, desires for the Satisfaction of several Gentlemen, That we would explain our Title *SCANDALOUS CLUB*.

We had the like Exceptions against our *Mercurie Scandale*, which we first Authentically justified and then laid down, and the very same Arguments are as good in this, that it may be taken as a proper Name, which we have sufficient Authority from the Practice of all Writers to justify, as in the Case of *Smellinnum*, *Mack Flecko*, and others, and in this Case are not bound up to the Literal and Grammatical Signification of the Term.

But because these Objectors are witty upon us, pray, Gentlemen, suppose we assume the Title of *Scandalous* from the Analogy; the things we enquire after, bears with the Word, the Coherence does not

seem to be broken; for we have been so civil to you not to meddle but where the Case has been very Scandalous.

And at last, if you will have it be a Scandalous Employment to rake in the Excrements of Vulgar Behaviour, and be always daub'd and sully'd with the Dirt of your Crimes, as the Night-man that stinks of the Vaults he emptyes; yet if the same Usefulness be due to our Title, we are content Gentlemen, to be call'd Scandalous or any thing else, *pour Vous Rend' Service* and so much for our Title.

The same Gentleman who demanded our Defence as above, was pleas'd to oblige us with his Remarks on our late News-papers, which are so just, and so much to the Purpose; that I cannot but give the World the Letter exactly as it was sent; and I am more than pleas'd to have the Honour of our Design not only vindicated and approv'd by Men of Sense and Letters, but to be assisted in Remarks on the publick Authors of Nonsense, by Gentlemen who are not ashamed to stand the work of the Repliers Indignation. And so Gentlemen News-writers, if I am not-qualified for a Censor, here are other Gentlemen that are.

The Originals of these and other Letters of this Nature, are left with the Printer of this Paper, for any Person to peruse that doubts the Truth of them.

Gentler



Gentlemen of the Club,  
**H**aving observ'd so many Passages in the late News-Papers, much of the Stamp of orders, by you formerly expos'd; I have presum'd to trouble you with them, in order to bring the Authors to Examination.

Daily Courant, N<sup>o</sup> 657.

'His Holiness, from a Gallery, gave his Benediction to a great Crowd of People, among which was the Queen Dowager of Poland.

Qu. If we must take for granted, the said Queen was one of the Mob?

Post-Boy, N<sup>o</sup> 1409, Dresden, &c.

'It being fear'd the Swedes may come and invade his Electorate, so soon as they shall firmly settle the Divisions and Troubles of Poland.

Qu. If Divisions and Troubles are to be allow'd a Settlement?

Flying-Post, N<sup>o</sup> 1413. Paris.

'Our Troops found prodigious strong Entrenchments made in the Avenues, with a great many Cannon, but of Wood, which our Troops burnt and broke.

Prag. Gentlemen, does our Author mean Wooden Cannon?

Gentlemen, Your Answer is desir'd, to a Letter sent to you a Week since, about the Title you call your selves by, viz. The Scandalous Club; to satisfy several Gentlemen, and

May 25.  
 704.

Your humble Servant,

J. J.

To the Gentlemen who desire this Paper should be Printed three times a Week, the Author gives this Answer.

He thanks the Gentlemen for their Approbation of his Work, and is very willing to oblige them; but as he assures them again, he has all along wrote it without Profit, or any manner of Gain whatsoever; so he is unable to spare so much more of his time from other needful Studies as such a thing would oblige him to.

A Dissertation is taken in by J. Matthews in Fellowship-Covers in Little Britain.

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Speedily will be publish'd,

**C**assandra: (but I hope not) Telling what will come of it. Part I. In Answer to the Occasional Letter: Numb. 1. Wherein the New Associations, &c. are considered.

444 **A** Doctor in Physick Cures all the Degrees and Indispositions in Venereal Persons, by a most easie, safe, and expeditious Method; and of whom any Person may have Advice, and a perfect Cure, let his or her Disease be of the longest Date: He likewise gives his Advice in all Diseases, and prescribes a Cure. Dr. HARBUROUGH, (a Graduate Physician) in Great Knight-Riders-street, near Doctors Commons.